

**North Central Minnesota 25 by 25 Water Quality Town Hall:
Table discussion input**

Question 1: What goals could be established to improve water quality by 25 percent in North Central Minnesota?

75% occurrence of agricultural best management practice on agricultural, industrial, and municipal lands: buffers, stormwater, grazing, crop, municipal, etc.
Possibly ensure that the companies are adhering to the protections already in place. Continued marketing of clean water and practices. DNR be more focused on protection of the water not exploiting it.
Identify targeted rather than broad goals and objectives.
Reduce the amount of landowner applied lawn chemicals flowing into our waters and set minimum standards for shoreline degradation on private lands that intersect lake shores.
Prevention is the cheapest and most politically supportable strategy for sustaining pristine waters. The major threat to these waters now is climate change and fossil fuel infrastructure (pipelines).
Limit the use of salt on our roads. Could replace with grit to reduce pollution. Regularly test public utilities and schools water for high levels of lead in drinking water.
Support for factory farms allows the owners to avoid environmental degradation. Taxpayers are forced to pay for the water and air quality while the corporations are sending the profits out of state.
No net loss of wild rice habitat (extent and quality)
No net loss of forests, wetlands, and meadows
Protect natural shore lands and river corridors
More rotational grazing of cattle in small paddocks
We could clean the coal and lumber industrial waste from the 1923 fire which sits at the bottom of lake Bemidji.
Increase organic agriculture
All the childrens camps to pull up invasive plants and disallow chemical spraying on lake lots Don't allow a pipe line to be put in pine land sands Motor restriction on lakes

Do not require people to manicure their lawns, and construct some sort of alternative that benefits the management of water. (Prairie grass, gardens, etc)
Equity in distribution of SWCD cost share funds to protect
More research on Hemp
Motor on boats - reduce speeds, limit horse power, required electric boat motors instead of gas powered
Support governor buffer initiative
Increase amount of land under conservation plans and easements.
make it unlawful for chemical fertilizer on their lawns near any lake lots
Control and reduce invasive species
is there anything that can be done at the seller level of selling of chemicals fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides. Can we outlaw their sale in the state
Monitor plowed snow piles, reduce salt on roads, increase organic matter in soil to retain nutrients, wetland restoration, assess nitrate polluters, stress landowner responsibilities
We need to prevent the construction of Oil pipelines & Sulfite Mines that will destroy the water shed. Our group felt this was the number one priority.
Minimize risk through planning
Have a State comprehensive water plan. All counties and STATE comply to laws, no exemptions.
Reevaluate risk assessment practices (e.g.) for new projects that may impact surface and groundwater resources.
Close the Line #3 pipeline, remove it and clean up all the leakage that has occurred
We have two superfund sights in this area one pollutes lake Bemidji with mercury and the other is responsible for poisoning the residents of Cass Lake. These alone will cover most of the %25.
Transfer to clean energy
Increase monitoring sites for surface and groundwater resources.

State monies to counties that pollute the lakes, ex: calcium chloride. Eliminate "salting" roads in winter.
Dramatic increase in Enviro Ed in public schools. And Enviro Ed centers
Increase no till cropping and cover crop
Ask the Mn association of townships to gather information or data on what or how small communities can implement the 25/25 goals.
Tackle small urban areas near lakes and wetlands runoff.
Add an "accountability deposit" or something to insure cleanup of messes created by pollutants from industry. Make sure this deposit is accounting for overcompensation of the cost of clean up.
Stop line 3
Promote positive programs that are already working on clean water. For example conservation clubs, small town projects so people know what other are doing.
Increase effectiveness of outreach to shoreline property owners about best practices to protect water quality. Repeat above for non shoreline constituent inputs. Reduce total impervious surfaces.
Continue protections of pristine water sources/sites such as the Red Lake Peat Bog in northern Minnesota.
Increase access to water recreation to grow awareness
Promoting education from elementary school to seniors concerning water quality issues using social media and other resources that are most relevant.
Instill environmental education early on in children's education. Along with math, English, start educating about loving and caring for the environment.
We need better educational resources for farmers. UMN Extension does not exist in many areas and people rely on coops for fertilizer recommendations.
Increased regulations and oversight in regards to invasive species.
Maintain our pride and joy, our 10,000 lakes.
Work with local farmers and livestock producers to identify ways to reduce runoff that promotes sustainable farming, responsible animal husbandry and reduction of phosphorus.

Raising awareness through practical, individual action goal tips, and facts/case histories. 25% businesses attempting one key change 25% households attempting water retention
Identify and implement Actions to reduce arsenic and other contaminants in community drinking water supplies, such as at Red Lake (reservation)
More thorough process of risk assessment.
Address agricultural exemption.
Beltrami County Administered Lands (owned by DNR) need strict supervision. These lands are being sold off with no protection appendages like conservation easements. Example: Star Island on Cass Lake.
Time limit on clean water permits for industry.
Stricter penalties for landowners and public forest lands regarding erosion caused by ATVs. The cumulative impact of ATV riding is completely underestimated. In the headwaters, it has enormous impact.
#70 Nolan/Emmer. Direct more funding to research/Forrestry.
Change laws regarding School Trust Lands to not focus on their economic potential -- there is an indiscriminate approval of clear-cutting that ERODES LAND and in turns affects the Mississippi River.
Stress Clean Water Act regulations. Sulfite levels/retain levels.
Stop allowing fossil fuel companies to function within the State! No drilling, no pipelines; move to supporting solely wind and solar energy so leaky pipelines can't contaminate the state
AIS prevention is improbable -- it's a pipedream. These funds should be reappropriated to focus on accomplishable goals to improve habitat and water quality. Example: remove more WPA dams.
Increase soil carbon and water storage on all ag lands by 0.4% per year by implementing good soil health practices
Require pharmacies to set up collection centers. Drive up centers. Secured.
Water quality education in schools along with Natural Resource studies.
Stress wAter quality is also an economic issue. Identify clean water as a forest product.

Fund hands on chemistry analysis of local bodies of water by high schools close by. There by inculcating the students with the understanding, science based, of the oversight needed for stewardship.
Create a standing science court that would provide objective, non-partisan opinions similar to the Supreme Court. Science should not be subjected to political influence.
A no cost way to check your wells. A way to trust our lakes. Stop motorized boating on most lakes. Protect our wild rice. Protect our drinking water. Stop that pipeline.

Pristine water a must
No Line 3 and remove the old line. Protect all wild rice lakes. Hold the DNR accountable for land sales that defeat improved water quality. Refuse sulfide mines
No line 3 and remove the old line. Don't allow sulfide mining. Protect wild rice lakes and traditional medicines. Clean up the St Louis River. Address any water bodies that are polluted

Question 2: What actions are needed to get to these goals for North Central Minnesota?

Landowner outreach, engagement, and technical assistance funds to change usual ways of doing things.
Stop and think differently. The current model of conservation delivery needs to change in order to get more improvement faster.
plant more indigenous plants ones that absorb the pollution
living community covenants should not require fertilized lawns and allow for increased indigenous plants
more education of everyone about what chemicals do to water
change the liability laws for agricultural chemicals
ban antibacterial soaps - beads that end up in the facial scrubs
Better land use and development regulation especially around lakes & other head waters.
plastic water bottles - need to get rid of them, don't make more plastic, stop the pipelines to reduce supply

consumer education about what is items are really made of - plastics - petroleum - don't think about big money but our water
encourage purchases of alternative vehicles that aren't made with plastic or use petroleum
education on soil health
Proper placement of pipelines
keep moving to solar and wind
get as far from fossil fuels as possible
cut back the use of motorized boats on lakes - including ski jets
MPCA should not be allowed to designate wild rice bearing lakes. It should stay with the DNR
Decreased medications going down the drains.
nuclear storage facilities should not be any where near the water
Harsher consequences for offenses that harm water quality. Make companies pay a substantial "cleaning deposit" for potentially harmful practices BEFORE projects begin.

Hold Agriculture more accountable - they should not be exempt from clean water laws
Require pharmacies to collect unused and out dated medications.
Fund Polymet and other water cleanup activities for the next 500 years
Require health impact assessments
Focus education programs and experiential learning
Peat bog mining on private lands - what are the laws -
Education at all levels and age groups
Employ urban conservationist in urban areas to work on small storm water projects such as rain gardens and impervious surfaces
Increasing monitoring of impaired waters. For more credible data
Education of farmers for sustainable farming.
Assessing risk in the area
More local conservation groups to help provide resources to combat water quality issues
Having agriculture accountable to clean water rules
To begin a marketing campaign to raise awareness of the highly poluted superfund sights and manipulate the population into this focus and concern. These two sights are our main polutors of the river.
Increased ownership of water quality issues among government, industry, and citizens in order to take concrete and concentrated actions on a variety of water quality issues.
More education to the general public. Need to change the public awareness of the need to implement conservation practices.
educate farmers regarding good farming practices
Educate our youth at early ages regarding the various ways to mitigate pollution and improve water quality.
Protect forest land important to water quality through easements
Educate lake owners about excess fertilizer and buffers on their shoreland
Include economic incentives in the Farm Bill to balance ecological and economic impacts

Require all new development to meet stormwater ordinances limiting impervious surface reducing runoff
Get citizen more involved
Place 5 year limit on renewal of NPDES permit
Identify and reduce impediments to using more water friendly road treatments (e.g. Don't subsidize chlorides over better alternatives)
Recognize how climate change affects water quality, and provide incentives for companies to transition to alternative energy, and make a state commitment to get off of fossil fuels sooner than later.
if you receive agricultural subsidies - such as cheaper crop insurance etc, you should be required to use best practices farming methods
Use tools, science and models to better target practices where we know they actually lead to improvement to a targeted water body or goal
Continuing these conversations to build a collective water ethic
Amend buffer law so that state, county, and local governments are not exempt from restrictions on new construction and reconstruction within buffers.
Make it easier for average citizens to do the right thing for water quality (by design). Educate and provide resources.
Contact representatives about clean water practices and solutions. Do more on the ground projects. Everyone (urban and rural) should have skin in the game (helps with motivation).
Increase soil carbon and water storage on all ag lands by 0.4% per year by implementing good soil health practices
Environmental conservation curriculum in all schools. Have a state water plan. Have more water town halls.
Ask all governor candidates "what are you going to do to continue this water ethic"
Social media to educate young people on water quality issues, needs, and what they can do
Provide permaculture education for people of all ages
When it comes to industrial regulation for pipelines etc: need an independent non-regulated or regulator to study the situation and report

Increase visibility of water quality issues through media outreach (e.g. media campaign).
Provide incentives for landowners to implement conservation practices that address soil health.
Media messaging that increases awareness of the importance of soil health and practices to address it.
Regular townhall meetings w/breakout sessions. Important to place in context of community. Engage local nonprofit leaders...with a gentle lead
We must protect our wild rice beds. Stop the environmental destruction of chemicals for our lawns, at the airport and farm fields.

Education of the importance do clean water. We have water. It can not be drunk. Protect water from motorized boats.
Address climate change and teach about it in schools. Grants and incentives to change to renewable energy and make this an over all goal in MN. Work on sustainability practices throughout the state
You are straining at gnats while camels are thwatening the peoples health. You should have addressed the peoples' complaints. Their complaints are acutely relevant. Wildrice is not being protected.

Question 3: What specific next steps are needed to move the actions forward now?

Have the various entities that work with landowners, municipalities, and etc work to incorporate this goal into their own strategic plans
Stop Enbridge Line 3. Rerouting to other routes is not acceptable either. Stop public money to private companies. No eminent domain for private gain. Listen to the woman speaking.
More incentives for organic ag
Clean water classes required for students - college and secondary
Having a political backbone to stand up against big industry. Having political policies that match our values.
Encourage clean water summer camps to educate the young people to take better care of the water
fresh water study classes offered through community educations
ban plastic - bags, bottles, disposable ----- petroleum based products
refineries on site instead of hauling the oil through our head waters, go to double and triple water tankers

Education, education, education!
Require pharmacies to incinerate medications instead of facilities disposing them in the sewer system.
have different licenses for boats that travel from lake to lake - higher charge vs ones that stay in the same place a lower cost
Educate the next generation
Ask governor candidates how they are going to take action on the water ethic
Pressure county governments to include septic inspections & upgrades in their county policies.
Citizens, watershed planning groups, etc need to work with those responsible for permitting and enforcement to eliminate exemptions and enforce existing rules and laws
Have water protection boards look at effective strategies used in the past (i.e. anti-tobacco campaigns) to educate and motivate citizens and legislators on preventing water contamination
Technology advances in boat docks

classes on invasive plants, how to identify and remove them, through community education or licensing avenues
pass laws that old pipe lines need to be removed and NOT left in the ground
Implement edge of field, N BMPs, and other ag BMPs that we know are needed. Do what is needed to get practices implemented
Better sampling to detect and respond to pesticide drift; resources and incentives to avoid acute exposure events and prevent pesticides getting into water
Provide hopeful message about zebra mussels
We need to take radical actions proportional to the problems we face and the goals we set. Do not allow damaging practices that would prevent water quality improvement to continue or begin.
Create an education campaign in the elementary schools trying to change the public perception that they make a difference
pay attention to the pharmaceuticals in the water, how do we control that - is there some kind of sieve or filter that could go on the out source of homes
Make water and watershed education (environmental stewardship) a required element of school curriculum
Reducing runoff
Shut down coal plants and oil refineries-- immediately!
encourage, allow and don't force homeowner to have nice "green" kept lawns throughout the state
lawns should not be mowed up to the lakeshore
Take personal responsibility
focus more on small communities regarding lakes and waterways
Stop agriculture exemptions for clean water laws. Get rid of state buffer law exemptions.
Sponsor summer lake camp education for kids to teach them to care for and clean up their lakes
Hold elected officials responsible for water policy during election process.
reseed more wild rice into area lakes -

Elect officials that are pro-environment.
Shore land ordinances restricting lawn chemical applications for some distance from the lake
Find a way to balance the economic necessities of the regions and strong focus on repairing the environmental damages that are already done
Build a water quality awareness and action ideas into middle schools across Minnesota
reduce lake level fluctuations to encourage more indigenous plants to grow
Funding for targeted, strategic, ACTIONS
Be more direct with local groups, cultures, communities to establish credibility using strategic partnering combined with placebos ed meetings.
Pharmaceutical degradation
Hands on service learning for youth around lake and river cleanup, stewardship, (works better than book learning)
Create a private well testing program.
Deliver a water quality message in a form that common people can understand
Citizens having input in the problem not just having the solution delivered to us. Thinking several generations to the future to safe guard the natural resources for future generations. Education.
Little less talk... and a lot more action ;)
Educate developers, real estate agents, etc about bioswales, native landscaping, rain gardens, responsible lake stewardship so the can pass on to new buyers
Dispose of pharmaceuticals in a responsible manner (not throwing into landfills or flushing down toilets.)
Get the politics out of the science by creating an independent Supreme Court of science to advise all three branches of government. Pollution is too profitable and the profiteer make the rules.
The economy requires folks to live off of Wild Ricing. Protect all lakes with Wild Rice.
Don't allow Line 3 and remove the old line. No to sulfide mines! K-12 instruction on sustainable energy practices. Stop DNR from selling lands for fossil fuels and mines. Laws regarding abandonment

